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The newspaper of Silicon Valley

The Mercury News

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REDACTED MUELLER REPORT

EVIDENCE AGAINST TRUMP DETAILED

DREW ANGERER — GETTY IMAGES

The legal team for President Trump called special counsel Robert Mueller's report "a total victory" for the president.

Russia probe: President's efforts to thwart inquiry cited

By Devlin Barrett and Matt Zapotosky
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON » The long-awaited report from special counsel Robert Mueller details abundant evidence against President Donald Trump — finding 10 episodes of suspicious behavior — but ultimately concluding it was not Mueller's role to determine whether the commander in chief broke the law.

"The evidence we obtained about the President's actions and intent presents difficult issues that would need to be resolved if we were making a traditional prosecutorial judgment," Mueller's team stated in the report submitted to Congress on Thursday. "At the same time, if we had confidence after a thorough investigation of the facts that the President clearly did not commit obstruction of justice, we would so state. Based on the facts and the applicable legal standards, we are unable to reach that judgment."

Since Mueller ended his investigation last month, a central question facing the Justice Department has been why Mueller's team did not reach a conclusion about whether the president obstructed justice. The issue

REPORT » PAGE 8

To read the full, redacted Mueller report, please go to **mercurynews.com.**

TOM BRENNER — THE NEW YORK TIMES

Attorney General William Barr addressed the media Thursday before releasing the nearly 400-page redacted report.

MUELLER'S KEY FINDINGS

- Mueller rejects the argument that the president is shielded from obstruction laws
- Trump, when told of appointment of special counsel Mueller, said: "This is the end of my presidency."
- "Substantial evidence" supports Comey over Trump in account of Flynn meeting.
- Trump campaign attempted to obtain Hillary Clinton's private emails.
- Campaign expected to benefit from stolen information released by the Russians.
- Mueller probe spawned 14 other investigations, including two unidentified cases that remain ongoing.
- Putin stepped up outreach to Trump after election.
- Special counsel team concluded Trump intended to obstruct probe in tweeting support for Manafort.

Mueller

Comey

Clinton

Analysis: Report paints damning portrait of Trump's presidency

By Dan Balz
The Washington Post

The Trump presidency long has been an exercise in normalizing extraordinary behavior, with President Donald Trump repeatedly stretching the limits of what is considered appropriate conduct by the nation's chief executive. The report from special counsel Robert Mueller puts into high relief the degree to which Trump has violated the norms.

The principal focus of the special counsel's investigation was on questions of criminality. But there is more than the issue of what rises to the level of criminal conspiracy or criminal obstruction when judging a president and his administration. These are questions that go to the heart of what is acceptable or normal or advisable in a democracy. On that basis, the Mueller report provides a damning portrait of the president and those around him for actions taken during the 2016 campaign and while in office.

The 448-page document is replete with evidence, of repeated lying by public officials and others (some of whom have been charged for that conduct), of the president urging not to tell the truth, of the president seeking to shut down the investigation, of a Trump campaign hoping to benefit politically from Russian hacking and leaks of information damaging to its opponent, of a White House in chaos and operating under abnormal rules.

ANALYSIS » PAGE 8

CAMP FIRE AFTERMATH

Fire's 'toxic cocktail' poisoning water

Intense heat released benzene in Paradise; $300M to clean up

By Tony Bizjak
The Sacramento Bee

The discovery was as surprising as it was ominous.

Weeks after the Camp Fire roared through Butte County last November, devouring entire towns, officials made an alarming find: The Paradise drinking water is now laced with benzene, a volatile compound linked to cancer.

Water officials say they believe the extreme heat of the firestorm created a "toxic cocktail" of gases in burning homes that got sucked into the water pipes when the system depressurized from use by residents and firefighters.

Despite a long history of destructive wildfires sweeping through California, water experts said what happened in Paradise has been detected only once before — during the Tubbs Fire in Santa Rosa last year. The contamination in Paradise, however, is more widespread than anyone could have predicted, they said.

"It is jaw-dropping," said Dan Newton of the state Water Resources Control Board. "This is such a huge scale. None of us were prepared for this."

The water contamination represents yet another unexpected and costly headache for

PARADISE » PAGE 8

STAFF FILE PHOTO

Charred vegetation and damaged homes in Butte Creek Canyon are visible from Lookout Point along Skyway in Paradise in 2018.

FAST OUT OF THE GATES

Zoom, Pinterest debuts boost tech IPO boom

Shares of local companies surging on their first day of trading

By Rex Crum
rcrum@bayareanewsgroup.com

In a year of rebound for tech public offerings, Pinterest and Zoom Video Communications on Thursday became the latest Bay Area companies to join the IPO caravan — and each got off to a smashing start.

Both companies' public debuts showed the continuing enthusiasm for tech on Wall Street, which has been waiting for several so-called "unicorns" — private companies with valuations of at least $1 billion — to hit the trading block. Ride-hailing company Lyft went public just two weeks ago, and its shares

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